

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames,~~ being transmitted between network nodes according to a specified transport protocol, each of said nodes comprising:

first circuit means for processing said time division frames according to said specified transport protocol, and

second circuit means for exchanging second information streams with said first circuit means through said transport interface to receive a request from the first circuit means and return to the first circuit means data originated from the second circuit means in response to the request,

wherein the transport interface ~~it~~ comprises circuitry for structuring said second information streams as a data stream, sent in a co-directional way, and an address information.

2. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~A~~ transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames,~~ according to claim 1, wherein the address information comprises enabling an enable information for ~~of~~ the exchange of the second information streams.

3. (*Currently Amended*) ~~The A-~~The transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames,~~ according to claim 2, wherein it provides a reciprocal time delay between the transmission of for sending the data stream and the transmission of the address information with a reciprocal time delay.

4. (*Currently Amended*) ~~A-The~~The transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames,~~ according to claim 3, wherein the transport interface ~~it~~ comprises a transmitter for sending a data stream, extracted from the time division frame, and first address information.

5. (*Currently Amended*) ~~The A-~~The transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames,~~ according to claim 3, wherein the transport interface ~~it~~ comprises a receiver for receiving a data stream originated by the second circuit means and for sending second address information to said second circuit means.

6. (*Currently Amended*) ~~The A-~~The transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames,~~ according to claim 4, wherein said first address information comprises a first transmission enabling an enable ~~information~~ and one or more address information of the transmitted data stream.

7. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~A~~-transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames~~, according to claim 5, wherein said second address information comprises second a transmission enable information for the second circuit means and one or more address information of the data stream requested from said second circuit means.

8. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~A~~-transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames~~, according to claim 6, wherein said first address information, ~~in particular in the instance of ATM data stream~~, comprises a synchronism signal[[,]] utilized by said second circuit means for marking the start of ATM cells and/or an alarm bit TSF for the second circuit means.

9. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~A~~-transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames~~, according to claim 7, wherein said second address information, ~~in particular in the instance of an ATM data stream~~, comprises a synchronism signal for the first circuit means[[,]] for marking the correct bit of payload start[[,]] for a correct handling in the first circuit means of the information transported by the payload.

10. (*Currently Amended*) The ~~A~~-transport interface for time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames~~, according to claim 1, wherein the first circuit means comprises an ~~are implemented by a dedicated~~ ASIC circuit, and the second circuit means comprises ~~are implemented by~~ FPGA circuits.

11. (*Currently Amended*) A method for interfacing time division frames, ~~in particular SDH frames,~~ in a telecommunications network that networks, ~~which~~ provides for extraction and exchange of the data streams multiplexed in said time division frames between a time division frame processing circuit and devices for processing the data streams contained in said time division frames, the method comprising: ~~wherein it provides for the step of~~ allocating a data stream and an address information[[,]] for co-directional information exchange between the time division frame processing circuit and the ~~processing devices for~~ processing the data streams; and returning to the time division frame processing circuit data originated from the devices for processing the data streams in response to a request from the time division frame processing circuit.